

The Naval Experts  
Muscle Shoals

## Election Post-Mortem

Analysis of Coalition Failure—No Real Fusion of  
Anti-Tammany Forces

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Many reasons have been advanced to explain the result of the recent municipal election, some sound and some possibly not wholly ingenious. It is surely of value to analyze the campaign and ascertain the causes of failure, so that in the future when similar problems face the New York electorate the forces of good government can be marshalled more effectively and with better results.

First among the causes of failure must be listed the type of candidate nominated by the so-called coalition committee. The word "coalition" was a misnomer. The nominees were with but a single exception organization Republicans. The ticket represented no real fusion or coalition of the anti-Tammany forces in New York City. There was a futile attempt to bring about such fusion, met, however, by insistence on the part of the Republican organization that the ticket nominated be satisfactory to its district leaders and its party workers.

As a sop to the independents, a Democrat was presented for President of the Board of Aldermen; this was for "window dressing" purposes. All the others nominated on the city-wide ticket, in the Borough of Manhattan and in most of the other boroughs, with a few minor exceptions, were strictly partisan Republicans with the strongest organization connections, whose nomination without a substantial leaven of either independents or Democrats was a direct affront to the independent voters of the city.

No disparagement is intended of the character, standing or ability of those nominated. The writer has the highest respect for Mr. Curran. But the primary appeal made by him and his associates on the ticket was obviously only to the Republicans of our city and not at all to either anti-Tammany Democrats or to independent voters.

One lesson was taught most emphatically by Tammany's victory, a lesson which has been repeated over and over again in our municipal history, but one which apparently has not yet been driven home to those responsible for our municipal campaigns—namely, that Tammany Hall cannot be defeated except by an alignment to ALL the forces in this city opposed to corrupt government; that these forces cannot be marshalled except under the banner of candidates making a direct appeal to the independent voter; that such independents, while willing to support and able to elect a group of candidates adequately representative of the forces of good government are not willing to exchange a Tammany administration for an administration dominated by the Republican machine.

As a corollary to this proposition attention must be called to the type of campaign waged by the various candidates. There was little or no appeal to the ideals for which the independent stands, little or no conception of the fact that he is firmly convinced that party lines have no place in municipal politics. A more dull, plodding, routine campaign can hardly be conceived.

As for the individual candidates, they were most of them poor campaigners. Mr. Gilroy, candidate for President of the Board of Aldermen; Mr. Clark, candidate for District Attorney in Manhattan, and Mr. Iselin, candidate for General Sessions Judge, spoke with considerable fire and enthusiasm, and Miss Boswell was always effective. The

New York, Nov. 10, 1921.

## The Mussel-Muscle Debate

Authority of the United States Geographic Board—  
Washington Once "Wasingatun"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Owing to the confusion that existed in the spellings of geographic names of different places in the United States, President Benjamin Harrison on September 4, 1890, instituted the United States Board on Geographic Names. This board, as originally constituted, consisted of ten members, and this is what President Harrison had to say on the subject:

"As it is desirable that uniform usage in regard to geographic nomenclature and orthography obtain throughout the executive departments of the government, and particularly upon the maps and charts issued by the various departments and bureaus, I hereby constitute a Board on Geographic Names and designate the following persons who have heretofore co-operated for a similar purpose under the authority of the several departments, bureaus and institutions with which they are connected as members of said board: Professor Thomas C. Mendenhall, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, chairman; Andrew H. Allen, Department of State; Captain Henry L. Howison, Lighthouse Board, Treasury Department; Captain Thomas T. G. Thompson, War Department; Lieutenant Richardson Clover, Hydrographic Office, Navy Department; Piersen H. Bristol, Postoffice Department; Otis Tufton Mason, Smithsonian Institution; Herbert G. Ogden, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; Henry Gannett, United States Geological Survey; Marcus Baker, United States Geological Survey. To this board shall be referred all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise in the departments, and the decisions of the board are to be accepted by these departments as the standard authority in such matters."

The official title of the United States Board on Geographic Names was changed to the United States Geographic Board, August 10, 1906.

Upon examination of the Fifth Report of the United States Geographic Board, prepared by Charles S. Sloane, the secretary, and published by the Government Printing Office in 1921, one finds (page 228, column 2) the following: "Mussel; Light Station, Narragansett Bay, R. I. (Not Muscle Bed nor Musselbed.) Mussel; Point, Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston County, Tex. (Not Musel.) Musselfork; Township and Village, Charleston County, Mo. (Not Muscle Fork.)"

But in the preceding column one finds: "Muscle Shoals; series of Rapids in Tennessee River, south border of Lauderdale County, Ala. (Not Mussel Shoals.)" Surely a board that has been in existence for thirty years, during which time its personnel has been differently constituted, would not permit Muscle Shoals to stand if there were convincing evidence that it is incorrect.

A correspondent of The Tribune recently pointed out that the name of the postoffice was spelled Muscle. In looking over Major W. T. Walden's article on Alabama in the American supplement to the ninth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica I find the following: "The Tennessee River, which waters the northern part of the state, is open to navigation throughout this portion of its course (about 340 miles) except where it is obstructed, for forty miles, by the Muscle Shoals."—Vol. 1, p. 150; copyright 1885. As his authorities, the major cites Brewer's "Alabama," Montgomery, 1872; Barnes' "Handbook on Alabama," Mobile, 1879; French's "Historical Collections" and the "Geological Reports" of Professors M. Tuomey and Eugene A. Smith.

It seems to me that if the place was originally named Muscle it is as much entitled to retain that form of spelling as the City of Pittsburgh is entitled to the final "h" which is included in its charter, but which many persons have endeavored to eliminate.

As for the Scottish town Musselburgh, the original name of the town was Eskmouth, but none of my authorities, although they note the change of

name, state when this took place. Neither of the terms, Muscle or Mussel, is given by Jamieson in his "Dictionary of the Scottish Language," who does, however, record: "Mussel-brook, a brook made from muscels, these shell-fish are boiled in their own sap, and this juice, when warm, is mingled with oat-meal." Here we have the spellings Muscle and Mussel, both referring to the same thing.

In regard to Washington, permit me to say that this name was known as Wasingatun in the tenth century; that the Anglo-Saxon form was Hwasingatun. The personal name is from the Old English *hwassa*—keen, sharp—and *ingatun*, the genitive plural of the fial suffix *-ing*, plus *tun*—manor, estate or farm. I visited the village of Washington, which is seven miles north of Worthing, in Sussex, seven years ago. It has a church which dates from the Norman and early English period, of which only the late Norman arcades now stand. From the Anglo-Saxon spelling the form of the name has varied as follows: Hwasingatun, Wasingatun, Wasingatun. The village in Durham from which the ancestors of the first President of the United States are believed to have come was spelled Wasington in the thirteenth century, but Wasington in the twelfth century "Baldon Book."

In the Church of St. James, Sulgrave, Northampton, there is a brass to Lawrence Washington, died 1584, with effigy of himself and his wife Anne and eleven children. They were ancestors of George Washington, and the spelling of the name was established long before Washington's time.

FRANK H. VIZETELLY.  
New York, Nov. 10, 1921.

## Latin-American Trade

Why Europe Got a Head Start—Our  
Exports Picking Up

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read with considerable interest the recent letters in The Tribune regarding American business methods in vogue with Central and South American countries.

Having been through the Isthmus of Panama, visited the west coast, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras and Cuba, I can testify as to the excellent constructive engineering and commercial work done in these countries by Americans and with American capital, as stated by Minor O. R. Keith.

During my connection with an export house in New York, whose business was principally with South and Central America, I learned to know the reasons why Continental countries such as England, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal have obtained such prestige in the tropics as compared to the United States.

1. Previous to 1893 the bulk of the business was transacted with European countries, which solicited it industriously and methodically, while the United States practically ignored the possibilities of commerce with these Latin-American countries.

2. The metric system of measurements and weights, standardized in European countries in the manufacture of their finished products, soon became standardized in the Latin-American countries and is still the recognized system.

3. Long-time credits are allowed for payment of accounts, usually ranging from six to nine months and in many cases a year or more. This system of long-time credit is distasteful to the average American manufacturer, he being used to turning over his capital several times a year and collecting his accounts usually within sixty to ninety days from date of shipment.

4. Persistence of American manufacturers (until the last ten years) in shipping their products packed as for domestic shipment and not, as requested by the purchaser, for export. American manufacturers, however, have for some time crated their products correctly and have marked the weights and dimensions in kilos and meters on all shipments, as demanded by the South or Central American importer.

5. American manufacturers and exporters made a grievous mistake in corresponding and printing their catalogues in English, when it was well known that Spanish and Portuguese are the languages spoken in Latin-American countries.

In addition to the foregoing, it must be remembered that the same article can many times be manufactured on the Continent for one-half to one-tenth the cost of manufacture in the United States. This does not refer to the profit demanded by our manufacturers, but to the actual cost of manufacture, which constitutes the major portion of our selling price.

Respective of all the handicaps and mistakes which have been made by the American manufacturer and exporter up to recent years, we are increasing our business in some lines and holding our own in others, even in view of the unsettled financial conditions in all Latin-American countries since the armistice was declared.

Those who have never been to Havana, Port Limon and Bocas del Toro, in Costa Rica, the Isthmus of Panama, Lima, Peru, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres cannot appreciate the wonderful work done there by Americans during the past twenty to twenty-five years.

I feel very confident that there will be an increase in American exports to Central and South America and Cuba and a closer personal and social relationship established as time goes on.

ROBERT B. BURTON.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1921.

## Promoted

(From The Boston Transcript)  
In spite of the fact that Mr. Hughes left the Supreme Court some time ago, just how you might well call him the chief justice of the world.

## Rear Admiral Wiley Protests

"No Serious Divergence of Opinion Among Naval  
Officers Experienced in War"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read the article written by Carter Field under the caption "Navy is Divided on Policy for Arms Meeting," which appeared in your issue of November 1. As a naval officer of thirty-eight years' experience who knows something of the sentiment and professional opinion of American naval officers of experience in war and as one who has never before appeared in print, I feel justified in protesting against this and similar articles which your paper has published from time to time.

I have no fault to find with your correspondent, for we know that the "absolutely reliable information" on which he bases his article comes from one or more retired officers or a small coterie of self-styled "experts" on naval matters, "great naval authorities," and now the "progressive element."

This article constitutes an attack upon Admiral Counts and his associates who are advising our delegates to the arms conference, the ammunition for the attack being furnished by these retired officers, or their followers, who are few in numbers. It appears to be the instrument of attack upon others equally or more able, under the guise of an effort to educate the public and work that public up to a realization of its grave danger. When the alarmed they create may be very mischievous.

In closing, I lead with you for less of this kind of thing, and that during the period of the conference at hand at least the columns of your esteemed paper be closed to the groundless alarms of these writers. In the best interests of the service and as a means to this desired end I suggest for your serious consideration that your naval contributors be given a long leave of absence on full pay.

Should it be deemed desirable to continue to bamboozle the public after the departure of our distinguished foreign visitors, these unemployed writers can easily be recalled to continue their mischievous work.

H. A. WILEY.  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy.  
Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

officers that our delegates to the arms parley will be led astray because they haven't the benefit of the advice of that small coterie of self-styled "progressive element."

The total result of these attacks is simply to bamboozle the American public and, unfortunately at this time, perhaps, a number of foreign naval representatives, and create the impression of seriously divided naval councils in our unprogressive naval service. Such an impression is utterly without any foundation and exceedingly mischievous.

I am quite sure that you can readily understand the latter point. As to the former, remember that the retired officers who have initiated and continue these attacks are officers who had little important command afloat and no command afloat which brought them into contact with modern fleets or modern methods of warfare.

They left the active service with a grievance. You must know that it is unwise to place too much confidence in either the judgment or the pen of a man with a grievance. The latter is apt to become the instrument of attack upon others equally or more able, under the guise of an effort to educate the public and work that public up to a realization of its grave danger. When the alarmed they create may be very mischievous.

In closing, I lead with you for less of this kind of thing, and that during the period of the conference at hand at least the columns of your esteemed paper be closed to the groundless alarms of these writers. In the best interests of the service and as a means to this desired end I suggest for your serious consideration that your naval contributors be given a long leave of absence on full pay.

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## Your Property

But the State Has Power Over It  
Approaching Confiscation

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Some years ago I made a discovery: All wealth had its source in the earth or the sea. Later I found that Ben Franklin knew the same thing a hundred years before.

Later I adopted as a working theory the principle that the true line between liberty and license in human conduct was found by considering whether a given act interfered with the rights of your fellow man. Last week a ten-cent copy of John Stuart Mill's "On Liberty" showed me this is not original.

It is rather discouraging work—this adding to the sum of human knowledge.

But if men may spend their lives in again discovering old truths, may it not be equally true that they may spend them in retracing old fallacies?

The right of a man to his property is defined by Justice Blackstone as "that sole and despotic dominion which one man claims and exercises over the external things of the world, in total exclusion of every other individual."

The legal mind will at once discriminate. The right of a man to his property is against every other individual, not against the state. Therefore, while John Smith may not seize Jim Brown's property, there is nothing to prevent the state from taking from Mr. Brown and giving to Mr. Smith.

The United States, under the power to regulate interstate commerce, took away the value of the creditors and owners of the railroads and gave it to the public. "During the war it took away the value of the coal mines, the farmers' products and the stocks of various classes of merchandise and gave it to the public. The State of Kansas has, by its industrial commission law, taken from the value of the state's manufacturers. The State of New York has taken a part of the value of tenement property and given it to the tenants. Russia took the value of its citizens and gave it to the public.

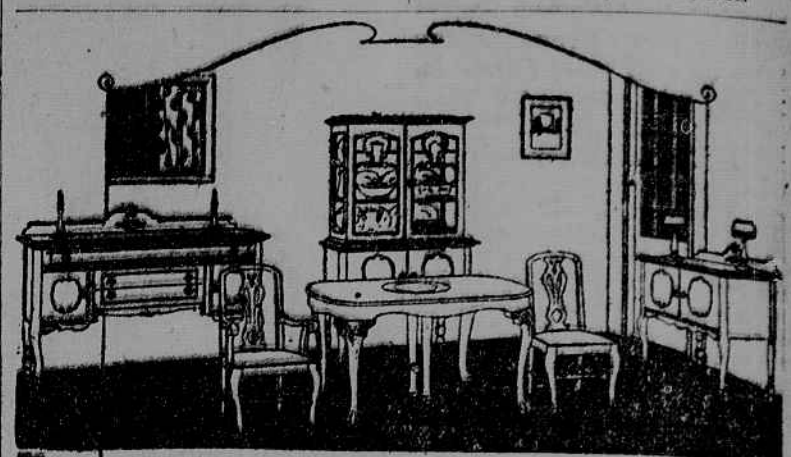
All of these things may be legal, but they are legal evasions, and in practical effect they vitiate the right of a man to hold property.

It is impossible to deny the state the power to tax, but this power used to its ultimate is confiscation. It may be

a question as to whether the power of the state to pass laws regulating human conduct should not be strictly limited to those safeguarding human rights.

When it becomes necessary for the state to urge men to produce, it is reasonably certain that economic law has been violated. When it becomes neces-

sary to urge people to obey the law, it is certain that human rights and human ideals are in conflict.  
Mr. Jefferson was right when he said "to the people the maximum of liberty and to the government the minimum of power consistent with the order and safety of society."  
H. D. UTLEY.  
Wakefield, Conn., Nov. 17, 1921.



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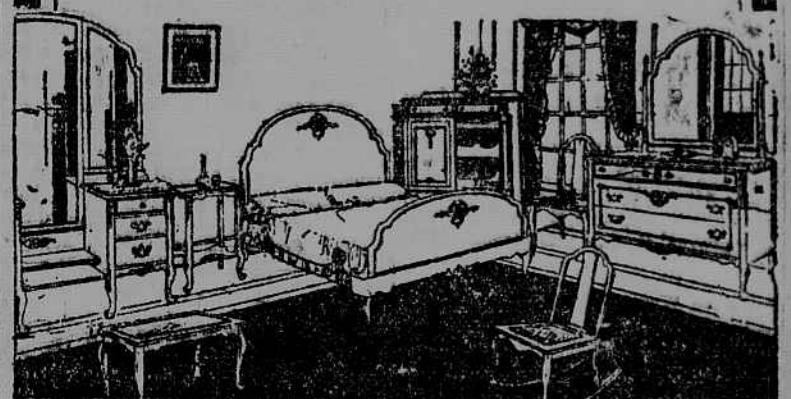
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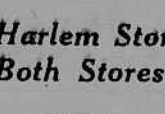
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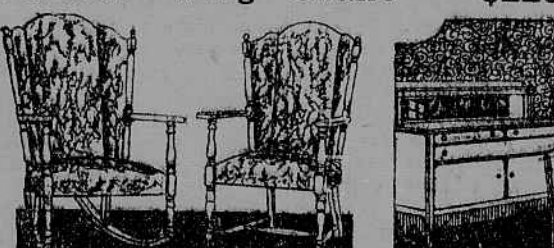
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